

## Heritage site at 178 Côte St. Antoine

# Public demo hearing on Goode House set for June 14

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

A demolition hearing is set to take place June 14 at 4 pm on requested changes to heritage-protected aspects of the landmark Goode House at 178 Côte St. Antoine. These include a new two-storey rear addition.

This is the distinctive stone house just west of Forden, and one of the two surviv-

ing Metcalfe Terrace homes from the 1840s. This one's interior and landscaping, relatively unchanged since construction, have been protected by the city's By-law 1552, making it the first private residence so-protected under Quebec's Cultural Heritage Act (see story July 14, 2020, p. 10).

The city's own heritage regulations protect the exterior architecture along with that of other Category 1\* buildings.

In addition, a separate by-law (1580) adopted last year designated six interior elements as "not to be altered," including some that are now proposed.

### New openings, addition

The proposed changes include dismantling, insulating and re- building the front vesti- *continued on p. 18*

## Westmount soccer goes pro



From left, David Patriquin, Cristobal Cardot, Campbell Bailey, Jules Parnet-Hanczakowski and Lucas Simon-Padilla were among 22 Westmount soccer players who were on the field May 25 with CF Montreal (formerly the Impact). See p. 23 for story.

PHOTO COURTESY OF SCOTT BAILEY.

**Honouring Queen Elizabeth's 70-year reign**  
One of city's cannon fired for first time since Victoria's jubilee. See p. 8  
See also p. 16 & 28

## 'People want answers:' Cllr. Kez

# Questions 'all over the place' from residents in Districts 7 & 8

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

A meeting for residents of Districts 7 and 8 to discuss local issues with their councillors, Mayor Christina Smith and city officials attracted some 50 participants at Centre Greene May 31.

"I think it was important because there were so many questions and issues that there wasn't enough time for residents to

be able to express themselves in two hours," District 8 councillor Kathleen Kez said the next day.

Among them, she said, were speeding on Greene Ave., the need for repairing more public lanes than the two being done this year (which are in Districts 3 and 6), the increase in panhandlers on Greene Ave., the status of the ..... sound wall along the high- *continued on p. 18*



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# Drivers warned after car rolls backward on Prince Albert

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

The need to always turn car wheels to the curb when parking on one of Westmount's many hills was brought to the fore May 30 when a car rolled backward on Prince Albert just north of Chesterfield, Public Security officials said.

The red Mazda3 was stopped when it hit an SUV parked behind it. Fortunately, that prevented it from hitting moving vehicles or pedestrians at the intersection, said Public Security director Greg McBain. "No matter what the hurry, take a minute to curb the wheels and park in a safe manner."

In the absence of the driver, the car was towed to a flat spot in front of 41 Chesterfield and a ticket for \$143 including towing was issued.

Many examples of near-misses have been reported by Public Security when improperly parked cars rolled into others or nearby properties. This included one on Church Hill that only came to a stop after hitting St. Matthias' Church where now-mayor Christina Smith was accompanying two of her children (see stories, September 24, 2013, p. 9 and October 4, 2011, p. 3).

Many of Westmount's hills have signs with reminders on how to position the wheels in accordance with city by-laws.

## Table of Contents

Letters, p. 6

Police Report, p. 26

Pet Page, p. 27

Retail Review:

Best Shoes, p. 29

## Lookout work under way, 2 ticketed for trespassing

Even though work has already begun on repairing the summit lookout, at least two people were spotted on a city surveillance camera climbing over the safety fence that has been in place for almost a year.

Public Security officials said a 23-year-old man and a woman aged 20 were noticed climbing over the west side of the fence May 31 at 3:38 pm after workers had left for the day. Patrollers found the two eating and ticketed them \$146 each for trespassing.

## Woman falls on Greene

Public Security reported receiving numerous calls May 31 when a 71-year-old woman fell on the sidewalk on Greene south of de Maisonneuve. When officers arrived, they found a nurse among people assisting the woman.

They took over, treated cuts on her right hand and a scrape near an eye. When Urgences Santé arrived, the woman was taken into the ambulance for further evaluation.

It was reported that she did not require stitches, but no other details were available.

The woman was described as having tripped when stepping up to the curb.

## Leaf blowing brings \$153 ticket

A public safety officer witnessed a landscaper using a leaf blower out of season May 30 at 7:34 am outside 6 Columbia. He was given a ticket for \$153 as well as a warning for lacking a valid work permit. Springtime operation of a leaf blower is allowed until May 1.

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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## WHAT'S WRONG AT WESTMOUNT CITY HALL?

We have been residents of Somerville Ave in Victoria village since 1974 – 48 years. During that long time, our (infrequent) relations with city hall have always been correct and professional. That is what we taxpayers are entitled to expect, we believe, but regrettably it no longer seems to be the case.

Eight weeks ago, my wife and I respectively sent e-mail messages jointly to Ms. C. Smith (mayor) and Ms. A. Bostock, the councillor for our District 5. These very factual and politely addressed questions were about zoning and parking problems in this neighbourhood. When no answer was forthcoming, we re-sent on May 6 the original text along with a new message:

“More than one month ago, on April 5 and 6, my wife and I respectively sent to both of your attention e-mail messages (see below) about topics that we and many fellow Westmounters nearby consider IMPORTANT. Since neither of us has time for frivolous correspondence, these are obviously of real significance to us.

“Now, to this day we have not even received as much as an acknowledgement that those messages have indeed reached their intended destinations. We both feel this to be quite shocking, especially on the part of Ms. Bostock, supposedly “*The voice of District 5 on Westmount City Council!*”: please do remind us for what purpose we

elected you!

“So, even at this late date, we would be most obliged if you could take time to address our concerns identified below, because both of these are quite urgent matters.

“Thanks in advance; sincerely, MAW and MRW.”

Another month later we *still* have NO RESPONSE from either the mayor or our councillor, the reason we are now turning to the *Westmount Independent*. Are other fellow citizens also receiving this kind of “cold shoulder” from city hall to their legitimate inquiries? We would very much like to know the answer, because if that should be the case, it ought to go to higher instances, for example “la Commission municipale du Québec” ([www.cmq.gouv.qc.ca/fr/nous-joindre/questions-plaintes-et-commentaires](http://www.cmq.gouv.qc.ca/fr/nous-joindre/questions-plaintes-et-commentaires)).

MICHAEL R. & MARIELLE A. WERTHEIMER,  
SOMERVILLE AVE.

## SURVEYS ARE EXPENSIVE, UN-RESPONDED TO, WASTE TIME

Westmount does love its surveys.

Are these surveys truly informative? Do they contribute to better decision making? Or do they give the impression of public consultation and contribute to a cumbersome process, ultimately delaying progress? As the saying goes in data collection: “Garbage in, garbage out.”

There are 8,685 households in Westmount, according to pointtopointhomes.

com. There have now been three Westmount Park surveys resulting in [approximately] 26,055 brochures being sent out. The first one had a response rate of [approximately] 100 out of 8,685, which means [approximately] 8,585 brochures went into the recycling bin.

For survey #2, I could not find any published results; for survey #3 the response rate was 1,192.

Response rates are quite low in general, so it is fair to assume that some 24,000 brochures were wasted. The online extension was poorly handled with the possibility of erroneous counts.

Perhaps this is something the [city's equivalent to an] ESG committee should look at. I asked the mayor what these surveys cost. She told me to make a request under the freedom for information process.

The city shares information about the cost of projects such as the greenhouse, which is on a runaway budget, or Lexington Ave. – each running around \$7 million, but not the cost of these surveys.

In fairness, the first Westmount Park survey did result in a maelstrom that moved the city to partially re-think its plan. Residents were quite vocal and quite clear. They wanted the park that was designed by famous landscape architects\* to be maintained, not re-designed by engineers, who are known to love structures. However, not convinced, Westmount went on to conduct two more studies trying to push the mayor's vision.

Then there was the Vision 2040 survey, an update of a master plan. There were 689 responses, but only 424 *complete* ones, out of [an estimated] 8,685. Westmount is a highly developed municipality with little room for new projects or modification of its existing land use. The survey asked irrelevant questions such as “Would you like to see 30 percent social housing?” Although a noble objective, where? And on some of the most expensive land in the country? What municipality has 30 percent social housing?

Or another question such as “In which ward would you like to see 3-6 storey buildings?” Once again, on what land and whose house are they going to tear down? And then there were great revelations such as “people don't like empty stores.”

Were there any transformative findings where simply common sense and basic knowledge of urban planning would suffice? Instead of giving the impression that some sort of grand thinking is going on at city hall, perhaps the administration could start with basic activities such as repairing our roads and sidewalks.

Via the Lexington survey residents spoke out about what they wanted, but

were ignored. Residents wanted the city to repair the street and sidewalks, and limit other structures. Lexington is a low-traffic, quiet, non-pass-through street.\*\* So why is this street getting a disproportionate amount of the capital works budget and traffic-calming measures, while high-traffic, truly dangerous streets like The Boulevard get \$0?\*\*\*

Westmount is now going to spend all this money on a street, Lexington, that might need to be re-done. But the amount certainly seems like an excessive, egregious and unnecessary overbuild when so many roads need to be re-done.

The re-building of Sunnyside only cost approximately \$4.3 million. How can the Lexington budget be justified?

Perhaps it is time for Westmount to question the time and resources spent on these poorly designed, poorly thought-out surveys; and whether, in the internet age, surveys should be done electronically, when deemed absolutely necessary.

Basic maintenance of parks and re-paving of roads do not need surveys.

But more importantly, do not waste taxpayers' money on surveys that bog down the administration and falsely give the impression that democracy is at work when the city then forges ahead with its preferred plan, disregarding residents' input.

Westmount needs to speed up its decision-making process, reduce complexity and get on with bringing the infrastructure into the 21st century. Every road repair or project turns into major drama.

JANIS KRAUT, THE BOULEVARD  
*Editor's notes:* \*The original design of Westmount Park was inspired, in part, by a letter by one famous landscape architect, Frederick Law Olmsted. See May 13, 2014, p. 19. It seems that the council of that era did not want to pay for a complete design by him. I often wonder how “famous” he really is. About half of his supposed admirers who write to me misspell his last name. And that original design has been changed a lot over the years, including dramatically in 1964.

\*\*Is it? Lexington Ave. does have a dead-end at its northern terminus, but there are plenty of other pass-through opportunities for motorists: i.e. Edgehill, Sunnyside, Shorncliffe, Devon.

\*\*\*According to our January 11 (p. 4) reporting: “As well [Councillor Conrad Peart said], ‘many of our residents will be pleased to learn that funds have been set aside for preliminary studies and public consultation for the planning and reconstruction of The Boulevard, a multi-year project.’” So not \$0, and this spending will likely lead to more spending in the relatively near future. – DP.

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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### QUEBEC IS A SHARED PROJECT

After the highly divisive 1995 referendum, we have come a long way to re-establish linguistic peace in this province. With Bill 21 and Bill 96, the Legault government, in two fell swoops, has cavalierly cast aside centuries of hard-won civil liberties and the core Canadian values of tolerance and mutual respect.

Mr. Moutonnet erroneously seems to believe that the “Brioche Dorée incident” is about the right to speak French or the right to refuse to speak English (May 31, p. 24). It is not. Rather, it is about two perceptions of politeness.

Mr. Moutonnet is certainly no less entitled to courtesy than anyone else, but if he is right that he was subjected to rudeness, does that justify a rude response? in another language than the one in which the conversation began? by implicitly invoking a divisive, discriminatory and unconstitutional law? by appropriating Quebec as “his” country?

What most Quebecers of all linguistic backgrounds and cultural origins understand is that Quebec is not the exclusive domain of any particular cultural or linguistic group, but a shared project that requires cooperation and the consideration of others to succeed.

Premier Legault seems to care little about the linguistic tensions he has stoked with Bill 96. It is troubling that our skies are yet again needlessly darkened by the clouds of cynical nationalism and tribalism.

PETER F. HOFFMANN,  
DE MAISONNEUVE BLVD.

### NO BOYCOTTS, PLEASE

I read the article about Brioche Dorée in the May 31 *Independent* (p. 24). Immediately I was reminded of when Quebec Solidaire called for a boycott of a shoe store on St. Denis. Why? Because it was selling shoes made in Israel. And Quebec Solidaire was outraged about this. The French

news media – print, tv, and radio – were all over the place. Even some French politicians from the party in power at the time got involved to defend the shoe store owner’s right to sell shoes made in any country he chooses.

This became a public relations disaster for Quebec Solidaire.

Mr. Jérôme Moutonnet, the owner of Brioche Dorée, can make his pastry and sandwich shop a French-only environment if he so chooses. This should be a non-issue in Quebec. All anglophones speak French in Quebec. It is good manners to speak in French when spoken to in French.

An English-speaking woman who started a confrontation with the owner is calling for a boycott, which is also a call to cancel Mr. Moutonnet. This is unjustified, mean spirited and very divisive.

I plan to go to Brioche Dorée more often now, and am happy to speak in French. Feels like being in Paris.

PETER BERSON, SHERBROOKE ST.

### RUDE CUSTOMERS ARE ALL OVER

Having witnessed the behaviour of many customers in different businesses in Westmount, I am convinced it’s a matter of bad manners. I have witnessed it at Brioche dorée, at the Forno, at Bazin and at Park, and those are just a few.

We, as polite and considerate customers, witness this behaviour day in, day out.

Let me give another example of incredible bad manners. Bazin is a small business, and is trying to make a living. During lunchtime, half of the tables are occupied by customers sipping an empty cup of something, doing computer work.

I ask myself how does one deal with this, how is it that a wealthy clientele does not understand the cost of such behaviour? There is a sign posted asking not to occupy a table to use a computer at lunchtime. I have asked several staff why no one asks the clients or points out the sign, and I was

told they were afraid to do so.

Now I ask you, is this a problem of language or is this a problem of selfish unbearable behaviour that can turn on a shop owner and destroy a business?

I rest my case.

MONIQUE ENZLE, DE MAISONNEUVE BLVD.

### UN-CANADIAN BROUHHAHA/ VIVE LA DIFFERENCE!

The brouhaha between the franco-phone baker and his anglophone customer on Greene Ave (May 31, p. 24) with regard to the language to be used in his restaurant was un-Canadian. Canadians compromise and reach an accommodation in the face of disagreement.

As our First Nations compatriots would remind us, all non-indigenous Canadians are just displaced persons with seniority.

It is sad to see that political decisions have weaponized language here. Are we to enter the realm of cultural intolerance such as the Uighurs have endured and the eastern Ukrainians are likely to?

Let us rather follow the Swiss example of being content with accepting the multiple languages of our peoples.

*Vive la difference!*

ANTHONY WALTER, LANSDOWNE AVE.

### Dumping on sidewalk costs worker \$654

While excavation work was under way outside 23 Oakland on May 31, a public safety officer witnessed a tractor digging out ground at 10:41 am and dumping it on the sidewalk. A statement of offence for \$654 was issued for the work.

### Indie’s summer schedule

June 14 & 21: issues

June 28: no issue  
(Dominion Day observance)

July 5 & 12: issues

July 19 & 26 and August 2:  
no issues  
(usual summer break)

Beginning with August 9 issue:  
weekly until Christmas

## Mme Gisèle Darmo nee St-Pierre

1932 – 2022

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Gisèle St-Pierre at the age of 89. She fought a courageous battle against Crohn’s disease and died peacefully with her family by her side at the B.M.P. Hospital in Cowansville on Thursday May 12th, 2022. Gisèle – dear mother to Marc (Tiscar) and Caroline, and cherished grandmother to Sofia – is survived by her loving husband,

Albert Darmo. She leaves to mourn her sister, as well as her nieces, nephews, cousins and dear friends.

A memorial service and a celebration of Gisèle’s life will be scheduled at a later date at the St-Edouard Catholic cemetery of Knowlton.

Arrangements entrusted to the Désourdy funeral home  
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*One-gun salute***Cannon last used for Victoria's 1897 jubilee marks Queen Elizabeth's**

BY MARTIN C. BARRY

A historic cannon owned by the city of Westmount was fired for the first time in 125 years June 4 at high noon in Mount Royal Cemetery to mark the platinum jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II.

The 19th century field gun is one of two owned by the city. Both have been in storage (one in Westmount, the other at the Royal Canadian Hussars's armoury on Côte des Neiges Rd.) since being moved from Westmount Park more than 20 years

ago to undergo refurbishment.

While the cannon were transported to the cemetery last Saturday to be fired with blanks by members of the Westmount Battery military re-enactment group, one failed to go off, although several charges were successfully fired from the second.

According to former Westmount city councillor Patrick Martin, president of the Westmount Battery, the 12-pound, smooth-bore cannon were built in 1810 during the reign of King George III.

They were presented to the city of West-

mount around the end of the 19th century after they were deemed obsolete. In their day, four pounds of ignited gunpowder would propel a cannonball 1,200 yards - around the length of 10 football fields.

*Two of a kind*

"With this level of restoration, these cannon are now extremely valuable," said Martin. "These are the only two in the world of their kind from the 1800s that are functioning. There are people in the States who would pay half a million dollars for

one of these."

The last time the cannon were fired, which was for ceremonial purposes, was in 1897 on the occasion of Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee. According to Martin, this took place in a location not far from where St. George's Elementary School now stands on The Boulevard near the corner of Aberdeen Ave.

"This is the first time they're being fired publicly since then, and it's most appropriately in honour of Queen Elizabeth," he said.



Preparing and organizing.



Fire!



From left, Councillor Jeff Shamie, Patrick Martin and Charles de Kovachich, former Westmounter and former honorary colonel of the 2nd Field Regiment of the Royal Canadian Artillery.

## *Family Day in Westmount Park is back!*



May 28 was the city's Family Day in Westmount Park, after two such events missed due to COVID. See also p. 10 and 11.

## Cannon, cop cars, castles, councillors!



From left, Clara Bolton and Isabel Cundill on one of the city of Westmount's restored cannon.

PHOTO COURTESY OF PATRICK MARTIN.



Kristina Heese and her two-year-old son Oskar test drive the miniature police cruiser.



"Nothing like a good brawl to let off steam with a friend or someone you've never met before. All good clean and safe fun," according to one by-stander.



From left councillors Jeff Sharnie, Antonio D'Amico, Elisabeth Roux and Kathleen Kez, Mayor Christina Smith, councillors Mary Gallery and Matt Aronson and city director general Hadi Hakim.

## Rides, animals, make-up, 'burning' buildings!

Fire simulation



Five-year-old You Yang Ning was feeling very brave and enjoying the pony ride.



Max Fried practised escaping from a burning building in a simulator run by Montreal fire inspector Anthony Tintaya, who said it uses safe, non-toxic smoke to show children the right way to exit a burning room, i.e. by crawling on the floor. Smoke generally accumulates around the ceiling.



Nora d'Incau, 18 months old, was enjoying the goats and sheep. She didn't mind if this sheep wanted to nibble at her finger.



Maitte (left), Melissa and Arthur show off their fancy painted faces.

## More great women

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Wins first of 2 volunteer awards for 2021

## MJ Blais cited for role in coaching girls' hockey team



Holding her award is recipient Marie-Josée Blais at the Family Day presentation with, from left, team sports coordinators Alyssa Sherrard, Andrew Maislin and Matthew Lawton.

PHOTO COURTESY OF WESTMOUNT SPORTS AND RECREATION.

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

One of the two Robert Aiken Volunteer Awards for 2021 was presented at Family Day May 28 to Marie-Josée Blais. The second has yet to be announced.

"MJ, as she is known to her players and fellow coaches, has been instrumental in developing our girls' hockey program over the past year," said Sports and Recreation operations manager Andrew Maislin. "She took the lead as head coach of the city's first-ever all girls inter-city team at the U9 level. She has also coached multiple soccer

teams the last couple of seasons."

It takes "an army to run team sports, from the paid coordinators to the front-line coaches," he added.

"Having someone like MJ lead a girls' team builds self-confidence, trust and respect within the players. They say to themselves 'Hey, I can coach also. I can play sports that have been dominated by boys.'"

He described her as being very patient with the young players, always well prepared and eager to help grow girls' sports. "We are excited to work with MJ for many years to come."

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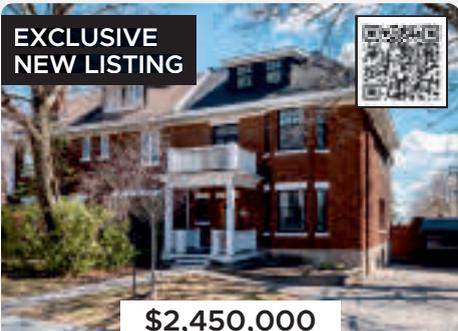
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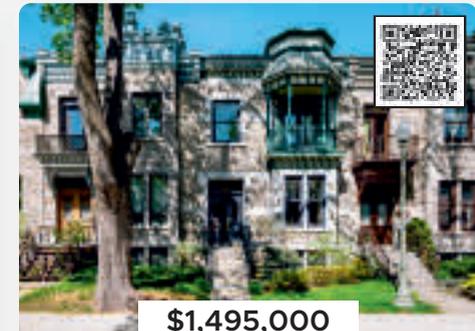
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## Westmount's lone lord? Wasserman honoured by McGill



From left, Gordon Wasserman and McGill University chancellor John McCall MacBain on May 31.

PHOTO COURTESY OF G. WASSERMAN.

Former Westmounter Gordon Wasserman was given an honorary degree by McGill University May 31.

Since graduating from McGill in 1955 and studying economics at Oxford on a Rhodes scholarship, Wasserman has had a long career in the public and private sectors, most notably in the UK's Home Office (which is responsible for policing) and as a technology adviser to US police departments.

### Advised UK PM

Latterly, he was an adviser to Prime Minister David Cameron and was made a member of the house of lords in 2012 as Baron Wasserman of Pimlico in the city of Westminster.

Asked whether he was the only member of that house from another city starting with "W" (i.e. Westmount), he said that given all the links between Westmount and the UK, and the amount of research that it would entail, "I would hesitate to claim to

be the only Westmounter ever to have been a member of the house of lords, although I have never met anyone who has made that claim."

His links to Westmount are journalistic, too. He had a column in the *Westmount Examiner* while he was at Westmount High from 1951 and 1955: "It was more or less a gossip column about what was going on in the school."

### 'Happy occasion'

The *Independent* was informed of the event by Westmounter Gael Eakin, who told us: "The reason I know all this is because we did 'go out together' while at McGill, and have kept in touch all these years!"

She was present at the ceremony, telling us afterwards: "I was with him on stage as an emeritus governor [of McGill] and his speech was perfect.

"It was very happy occasion!"



From left, Gordon Wasserman and Gael Eakin at a May 30 dinner.

PHOTO COURTESY OF G. EAKIN.

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## Signs of (post-pandemic?) normality

Like everyone, everywhere, Westmounters and their institutions are finding things more normal at present than at any time since early March 2020.

### Army pays rent

In the June edition of the Royal Montreal Regiment’s *Intercom* newsletter, retired lieutenant colonel and honorary colonel Colin Robinson explained that – in “another monthly edition of ‘life is increasingly returning to normal’” – the Royal Montreal Regiment held its annual church parade service on May 15, followed by its annual awards ceremony, a change-of-command ceremony and the payment of its rent to the city of Westmount in accordance with the terms of the 99-year lease of the land on which its St. Catherine St. armoury rests.

“In a display of transparency, a number of us had been invited by the mayor of Westmount, Her Worship Christina Smith, to brief city council on the RMR the day immediately following the parade, and we witnessed her depositing the mighty sum of three dollars (COVID had prevented the RMR from paying the ‘rent’ in 2020 and 2021) with a bemused controller (who was likely relieved that the RMR didn’t insist upon a receipt!).”

### Booksellers sell books, support Ukraine

Following a forced hiatus in 2021, the Westmount Antiquarian Book Fair returned to Centre Greene on May 21. Usually held in March, when the weather is more suited to indoor browsing, the fair was COVID-delayed this year “but this didn’t deter visitors in the slightest,” according to organizers Wilfrid de Freitas and Susan

Ravdin. “Despite the brutal 38°C temperature and 90-percent humidity and the three-day long weekend, the fair attracted the second-highest number of visitors in the last 10 years.

“Clearly there was pent-up demand by Montreal bibliophiles who’d been starved of book fairs for more than two years (the last one was in March 2020).”

This year, all the admission charges and additional contributions, a total of \$925.25, were donated to the St. Michael’s Ukrainian Church Help Ukraine Fund.

### Atwater Library celebrates Queen’s platinum jubilee



Pianist Shirley Wu takes a bow following a performance of several British-themed pieces during an Atwater Library event on July 2 to celebrate Queen Elizabeth II’s platinum jubilee. Among the highlights were the official opening of a Platinum Jubilee Exhibition of art and artifacts. Mark Abley presented prizes to the winners of a Platinum Jubilee Writing Contest.

PHOTO: MARTIN C. BARRY

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The front door of the Goode House on June 1.

PHOTO: INDEPENDENT.

### *Goode House, cont'd from p. 1*

bule reproducing original materials. They also involve creating a new opening on the west façade as access to the basement and demolishing lean-tos at the rear to build the new addition. This would require lowering sills and removing windows and doors.

These aspects along with the addition itself – the replacement project – are to be explained at the public hearing and can now be viewed in advance on the city's website under Resident Zone/urban planning/demolition.

In keeping with demolition applications, letters of opposition or comment were to be received at city hall within 10 days of the legal public notice dated May 17, which has now expired.

While these are traditionally published on the website once names and addresses of writers are removed, one lengthy letter of opposition was sent to the *Independent* from Anne Barkman, president of the Westmount Historical Association (WHA), and published May 31 (p. 8).

### *Historical Ass'n raises concern*

The WHA has been involved in the protection designation of the Goode House since the city's attempts to preserve it. In the letter, she states the construction and architecture of the large proposed addition is "inappropriate in scale and size to the modest Greek Regency style house."

The city had maintained through the process that changes could be made to adapt the house to contemporary living – such as updating wiring – while preserving specific characteristics.

The house just west of Forden has not undergone significant changes, one of the reasons underlying the request for preserving the historic site.

Its interior design, materials and finishes are cited for their historic value. Its landscaping represents "English garden characteristics of that era" as well as its integrity, which includes fencing and division of spaces and garden for some species of interest such as trillium and ginkgo biloba.

### *Questions, cont'd from p. 1*

way (now in court) and picnic tables on Greene between de Maisonneuve and St. Catherine, the future of the city's Tupper parking lots and the loss of Dawson's planned expansion, which was likely to be on St. Catherine west of Atwater.

"The questions were all over the place," Kez said. "People wanted detailed answers and asked why they never hear back from city hall."

In general, she said, they were told that the city "was working on it" or that something was a "pilot test."

The issue regarding the picnic tables on Greene was one, she said, that could be quickly resolved. There were too many of the tables in the southern strip and they weren't appropriately refined to match the strip on Greene.

Among city officials on hand to hear the concerns were city director general Hadi

Hakim and Public Security director Greg McBain.

### *Engaged citizens*

District 7 councillor Matt Aronson later told the *Independent* from Regina – where he was attending the annual conference of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities – that it had been "so gratifying to see so many residents engaged in city affairs."

Among issues raised, he said, was "how can the city meet the needed repair of our aging infrastructure while meeting the needs of citizens during the work."

Aronson also said it was "wonderful" having the city's director general, Hadi Hakim, in the room as well as assistant director general Michel Larue (in charge of urban planning and engineering) to hear directly the concerns of residents.

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## Rosenbloom foundation establishes 'positive neuroscience' centre at Israel's Weizmann Institute



From left, back row: Anne-Marie Boucher, Dr. Laurence Rubin, Susan Stern, CEO of Weizmann Canada, Valeria Rosenbloom, Anita Gabbay, Michael Stern; front row: Cathy Beck, Stephanie Azrieli and Emmelle Segal.

ALL PHOTOS TAKEN MAY 29 AND COURTESY OF PBL PHOTOGRAPHY/WEIZMANN CANADA.

Westmounter Valeria Rosenbloom announced a gift to the Weizmann Institute of Science in Israel May 3 to establish the Mike and Valeria Rosenbloom Center for Research on Positive Neuroscience, named after herself and her late husband. The amount of the gift is not being made pub-

lic. The centre will be one of 12 operating within the Azrieli Institute for Brain and Neural Sciences.

"Positive neuroscience is an emerging field globally, forging new paths of discovery in brain health through human flourishing and well-being, building on the



Westmount residents Najeeb Khalid, Valeria Rosenbloom and Adriana Khalid.



Westmount residents David and Susan Stein.

more conventional exploration of diminishing health through illness and disease.” Weizmann Institute president Alon Chen was quoted as saying in the press release of the same day. “We are grateful to the Mike and Valeria Rosenbloom Foundation for its generous contribution that will enable this new centre to work alongside and in collaboration with 11 other centres.”

“The curiosity-driven research that is the fundamental essence of the Weizmann Institute is perfectly aligned with what I believe – and what Mike also believed – that this will lead to more discoveries,” said Rosenbloom in the same release. “Nutrition, lifestyle, clean water, air pollution, sunlight, sleep, social interaction and

From left, Westmounters Valeria Rosenbloom and Susan Stern, CEO of Weizmann Canada, and, on screen from Rehovot, Israel, Professor Alon Chen, president of the Weizmann Institute of Science.



many other elements have an impact on our brains and our overall health, and I am very proud that this new centre will help us to get a better understanding of why.”

Described in the release as “treasured friends of the Weizmann Institute,” Valeria and Mike have previously supported cancer and neuroscience research, as well as scholarships.

An event marking the gift was held May 29.

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# Westmount represents at first Canadian Youth Film Festival



A still from *Effet domino*.

The short films of six Westmounters have been chosen for the first Canadian Youth Film Festival. They are Marilia Le-page, Elisabeth De Stoop and Florence Riverin for *Effet domino* and Océane Vuong, Sofia Bernal and Sabrina Dumitrescu for *Perdre le fil*.

*Effet domino* addresses mental health and shows the effects of repetitive daily life

on a teenage girl.

*Perdre le fil* is about a girl who wakes up one morning and notices that a red string is attached to her little finger. She follows it.

It is the first year of this festival. All selected films will be presented online on the festival's website from June 10 to July 15.



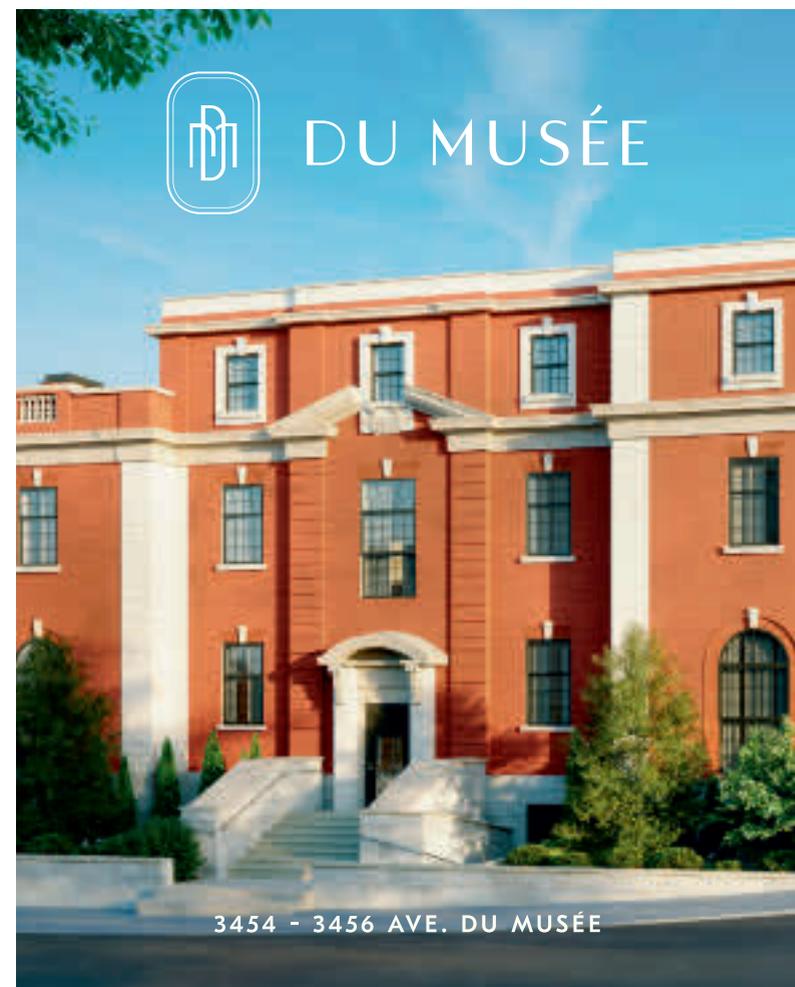
A still from *Perdre le fil*.

In total, six of the festival's 26 films were made by elementary school students, four by junior high school students and 16 by senior high school ones.

"I teach [at Villa St. Marcelline]," festival co-founder Emma June Huebner told the *Independent* by email, "and saw that amazing projects were being made by students, and that these projects were not seen by

the world. This led me to create the festival with another Montreal teacher [Julie Talbot of Collège St. Anne]. We had over 85 submissions from across the country our first year and hope to have even more next year."

This year, the jury was composed of filmmakers Torill Kove, Jean-Francois Caissy and Khoa Lê.



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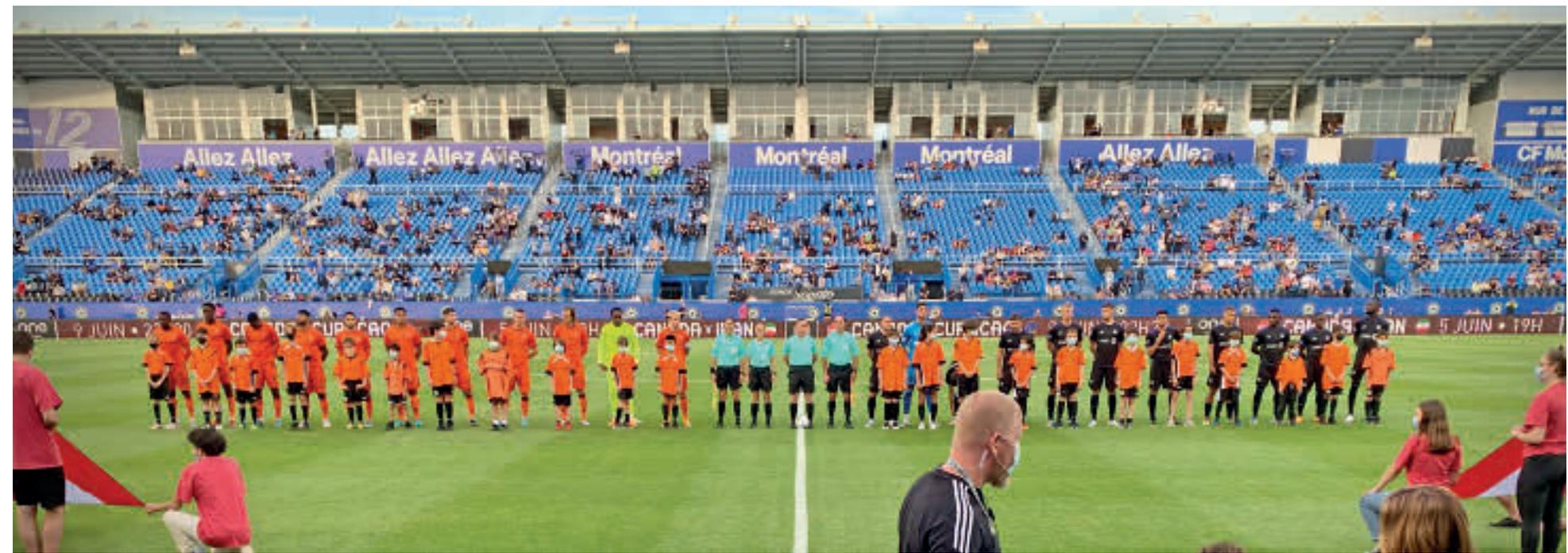
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Wearing their orange Westmount soccer jerseys, 22 young house-league players participate in the pre-game protocol on Saputo field May 25. They stand in front of 11 Montreal pro players, also in orange, and 11 from the Hamilton Forge team. Montreal won 3-0.

### Quarter finals: Montreal vs. Hamilton

## Westmount kids introduced on Saputo field for pre-game protocol

BY LAUREN SWEENEY

A total of 22 young soccer players from Westmount's house league had what for many may be the memory of a lifetime.

The young players aged 9 to 12 were involved in the pre-game protocol May 25 that involved each walking hand in hand with one of the pro-team players from either the 11 CF Montréal (formerly called the Montreal Impact) or the Hamilton Forge visitors.

"They all had an amazing experience," said Ivan Bel, Westmount volunteer coach of the U11 team, who managed to arrange the focus on the local soccer players. "Many of them got their orange Westmount jerseys signed by CF Montréal players," he said. "As coach, I was hoping to take my team to watch a game in the stadium" before the season ended, he explained.

"We got very lucky," he added.

When he called to inquire about obtaining group tickets for his team, he received

a call back from the Montreal team's Fabien Flaman, the membership and premium experience sales consultant. And it was more than he expected.

#### Arranged quickly

"The pre-game protocol had not been set up yet for the quarter-finals game, so I had only a few days to make sure enough Westmounters could join this unique experience."

He sent out emails to his team's parents and the coaches of other teams. Within 48 hours, he had enough participants. A total of 77 Westmounters turned out, from which Bel chose the 22 participants required to be "not too old or not too young."

The group arrived at the stadium an hour early so the participants could be briefed on the protocol. "One of them was kind enough to give his spot to one of the younger ones who was very sad he could not participate."

And for Andrew Maislin, Sports and Recreation operations manager, "It was a great initiative of a volunteer going that extra mile." Bel, he said, "has only been with us a couple of years."

In fact, Bel moved to Westmount four years ago from the US and has coached here for two of them. He has three children. They are: Charlotte, age 6 on the U6 team, who attended the game but was one of those too young to participate in the pre-game protocol; Oliver, 10, on Bel's U11 team and 13-year Elliot, who is not playing this year.



From left, Charlotte Bel, Ana-Sofia Cardot and Chloé Segretin.

ALL PHOTOS COURTESY OF IVAN BEL.



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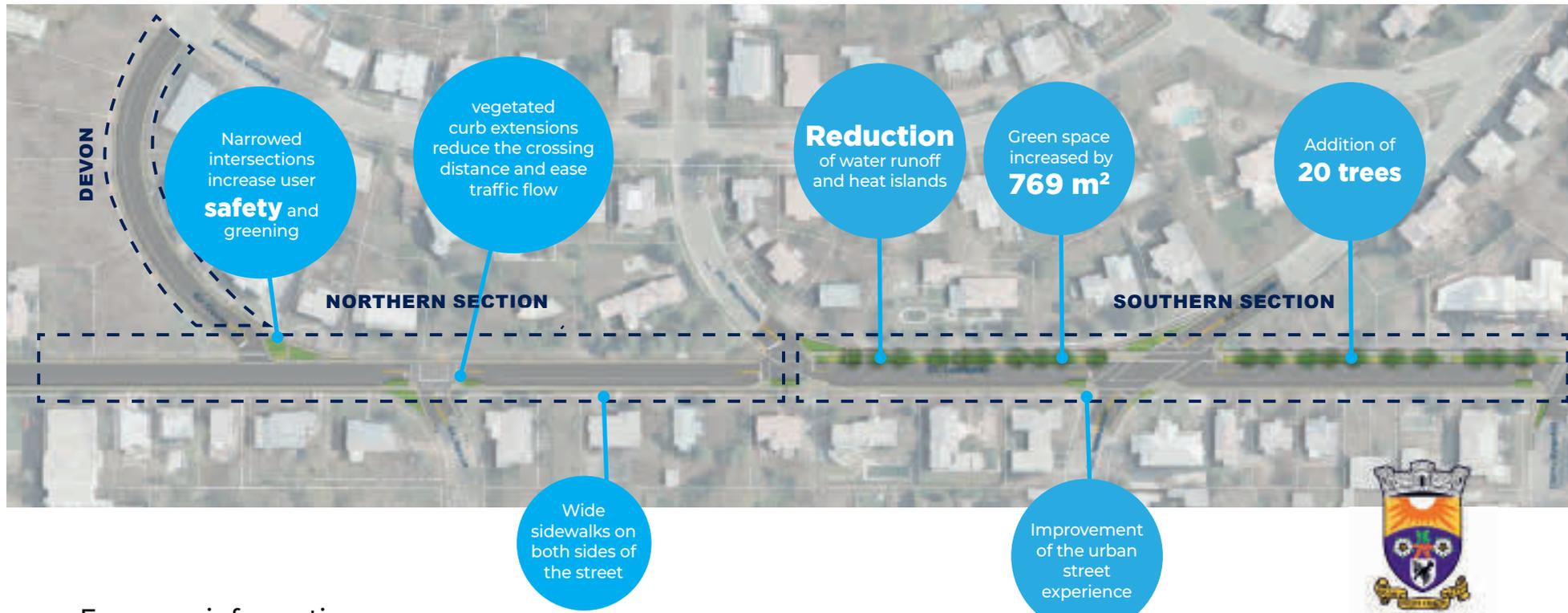
Lexington and Devon:  
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The Lexington and Devon Avenue reconstruction project is entering the execution phase. Underground infrastructure work will require a complete reconstruction of the roadway.

The City is taking this opportunity to upgrade the streets to current urban planning standards and address some existing problems.

“When an opportunity to improve a street arises, we must make the most of it! This is a great project that has been analyzed from every angle.”

- Michel Larue, Assistant Director General



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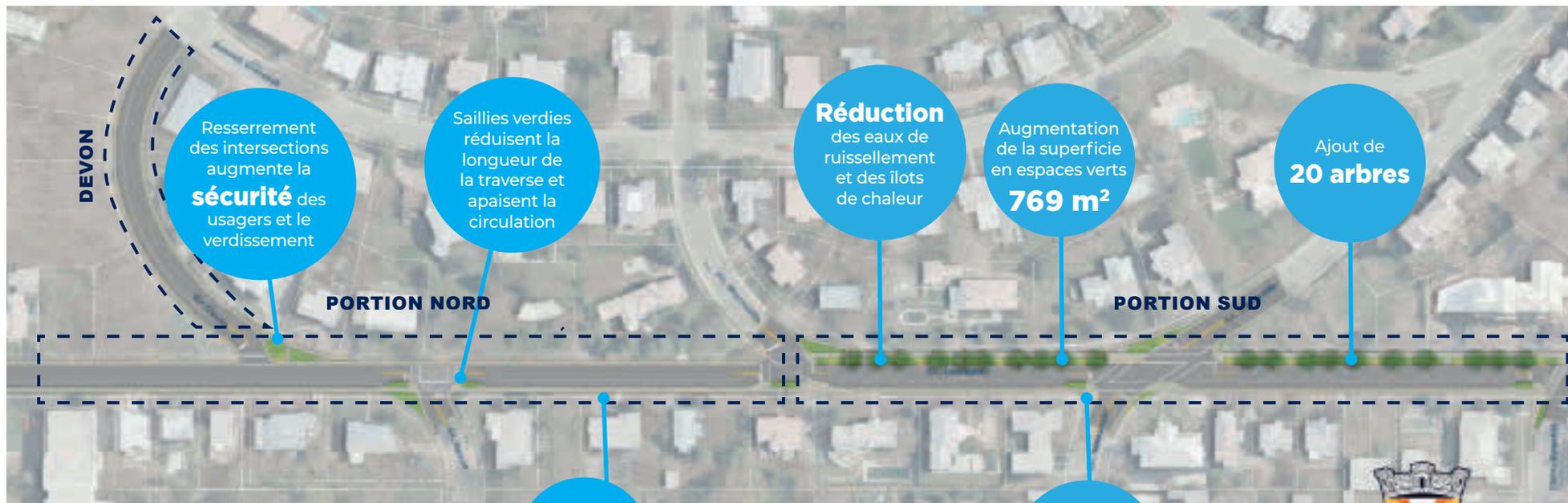
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« Lorsque l'occasion d'améliorer une rue se présente, nous devons la saisir! C'est un super projet qui a été analysé sous tous ses angles. »

- Michel Larue, directeur général adjoint



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## Police Report

# Police close to arresting 'Midnight Bandit'

BY MARTIN C. BARRY

Investigators at the Montreal police dept.'s Station 12 have identified a household burglar responsible for a string of break-ins and burglaries in Westmount recently and believe it is only a matter of time now before he is apprehended.

The male suspect, who is being referred to by staff at the Stanton St. station as the "Midnight Bandit," entered at least one home north of Sherbrooke St. around Greene Ave. during the late evening of May 22 after removing the insect screen from a back door.

Another three break-ins and burglaries in Westmount last week are being attributed to the bandit.

On May 28 around 3 am, a home near the corner of Clarke Ave. and de Maisonneuve Blvd. was broken into and robbed. Then on June 1 and 2 around 4 am, homes near the corner of Sherbrooke St. and Victoria Ave. also were broken into and burglarized.

However, in one of the incidents, a security camera captured images of the suspect. As a result, "we have a good idea of who he is," said Station 12 interim-com-

munity relations officer Cst. Michel Yigit. "We've identified the suspect and we're actively looking for him."

Among the items stolen during the incidents were a bicycle, a laptop computer, Apple ear pods and some liquor. The suspect's penchant for the latter commodity, in addition to the security footage, helped the investigators identify him.

"A couple of years back, this gentleman was doing the exact same thing," said Yigit. "When we realized the alcohol was stolen and with the images, we were able to put the two together."

### Starting fire leads to police record

Four teenage boys who set a small fire inside the Westmount Park comfort station

on May 24 were briefly detained by the Montreal police then released into the custody of their parents, but will now have police records for years to come.

There was no damage to the comfort station, said Yigit, adding that the boys seemed to have been simply "fooling around."

However, as a result of their brush with the law, their names and other information will be retained in the Montreal police dept.'s internal databank for an indefinite period.

"It's not a criminal record," said Yigit, noting that the data can be purged, although usually only after intervention by a lawyer.

## Rascally rabbits!



"I saw this little fellow last evening [May 27] on Sunnyside Ave. near the intersection with Upper Bellevue," Pamela Stewart of Sunnyside Ave. told the *Independent*.

PHOTO COURTESY OF P. STEWART.

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### IMPORTANT NOTICE

#### Minor exemption Applications

1. The City of Westmount has received applications for minor exemptions for the buildings located at **730 Upper Roslyn Avenue** and **318 Kensington Avenue**;
2. The applications will be reviewed at a regular sitting of the Municipal Council that will be held on **June 20, 2022, at 5:30 p.m.** in the Council Chamber of City Hall, located at 4333 Sherbrooke Street West, in Westmount and will be broadcast live on the City's website. The link for the sitting will be available at the following address: [www.westmount.org/seance-du-conseil-en-direct](http://www.westmount.org/seance-du-conseil-en-direct).

The legal notice relating to the foregoing is available at: <https://www.westmount.org/en/resident-zone/legal-services-city-clerks-office/public-notice/>

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Handsome Kitty is a most gentle and affectionate ginger tabby. He is very smoochable, with huge gold-tone eyes and a perfect little pink nose. Yes, he is quite a cuddler.

Unfortunately, as his owner is moving shortly and cannot take him, we are looking for an adopting family in our neighborhood as soon as possible.

Kitty has known nothing but love and a stable home, so his move to another family will be a transition in kindness and affection. He enjoys everyone, is quite playful and is a social fellow.

He is very healthy at 10 years of age and is being updated with his inoculations and neutered. He has been an indoor cat all his life, so family in the home is his treasure and his focus as a wonderful loving companion.

If you would like more information on Kitty and more adorable photographs, please do not hesitate to contact William at [thewickedbill@hotmail.com](mailto:thewickedbill@hotmail.com).

Your neighbour,  
Lysanne

**Luna & Django, both smiling/fun**Westmount  
A-dog-tions

LYSANNE FOWLER

Well, for two young dogs in need of new, separate families, they are enjoying themselves enormously at play! It just shows how affectionate and companionable they both are.

Luna is a young 15-month husky, smart as a whip and keen on going places – wherever you would like is just fine by her!

Her buddy Django is a young, handsome fellow who attracts affection and play. His warm personality shines as he cuddles and shows interest in bonding. He loves toys and the more you play with him, the more companionable he gets as the interaction grows into attachment.

These two young dogs need homes as soon as possible. They are quite ready as they are both very healthy, up to date with

their inoculations, sterilized and micro-chipped.

Luna and Django are very affectionate, getting along well with other dogs, as you see, and good with children over 12 years of age.

They have not had the regal feline experience yet, so avoid those for the moment. They are in foster care for the grassroots volunteer animal rescue group Gerdy's Rescues & Adoptions, and feedback from the foster families is wonderful.

Luna and Django are ready for forever families, it would be wonderful to give them the best home and lifestyle in our neighbourhood. For more information on them, please refer to the Gerdy's Rescues & Adoptions website at [www.gerdysrescue.org](http://www.gerdysrescue.org) and scroll along to their information pages. Feel free to contact the volunteers through their website or by email directly at [info@gerdysrescue.org](mailto:info@gerdysrescue.org), as it is always good to reach out and chat about your family's interest in adoption.

Your neighbour,  
Lysanne

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# Queen Elizabeth Gardens get another tree for Queen Elizabeth

BY RALPH THOMPSON

The city of Westmount celebrated Queen Elizabeth II's 70th year on the throne June 2 by planting a northern red oak in Queen Elizabeth Gardens, which is located at Wood and Sherbrooke.

Jayne Gerbrandt, inspector in horticulture and arboriculture at Public Works, said "We wanted to do something appropriate for the queen's 70th jubilee celebration. We decided to plant a northern red oak tree because, just like the queen, it's hardy and will stand the test of time, and it's in line with the history of Westmount. It is an indigenous hardwood tree that was used in the construction of homes."

Mayor Christina Smith and Gerbrandt hung a small commemorative plaque on the tree with the words "The Queen's Green Canopy, The Platinum Jubilee 2022." This Westmount event was aligned with the Queen's Green Canopy tree-planting initiative created to mark the jubilee. It invites people from across the United Kingdom to "Plant a tree for the jubilee." Very appropriate delicate cream cakes adorned with tiny Union Jacks and anniversary pins were handed around.

On June 2, 1953, the day of the queen's



From left, Martin Dicaire and Jayme Gerbrandt of Public Works, Councillor Mary Gallery, Mayor Christina Smith and Councillor Jeff Shamie.

coronation, the city planted a row of maple trees in the gardens. An oak tree was also

planted around the same time and still stands magnificently, 70 years later, in the

centre of the park near the playground area.

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## Retail Review

VERONICA REDGRAVE

# Best Shoes brings Ukrainian link to Greene



Viken Jamkodjian and Manush Petrosyan

What a confluence of events. And what a small connected world. The new shoe shop for kids on Greene Ave. has links to the Ukraine.

Viken Jamkodjian and his wife Manush Petrosyan have lived in Montreal for many years. Not only are they co-owners of Best Shoes, but they were also co-owners of a Ukrainian rain boot factory, for which they acted as wholesalers here.

### Plan B

However, “We moved to ‘Plan B,’ due to the war,” explained Manush. Their factory in Kharkov is now “partially destroyed” so they opened a retail space in Westmount to stay in business.

“When I use the term ‘orthopedic,’ parents expect an unattractive shoe. But our lines are fashionably comfortable, important for feet at an early age.”

The shop carries the Spanish Pablosky brand exclusively in Canada as well as fun rainboots from their Ukrainian factory.

“As we were working in wholesale for

these boots, we had stock.”

Sitting amidst the little school shoes is the Eco Bio Collection, which are sandals for women. Featuring soft soles, they are made in Italy.

In fact, Viken is soon on his way to that country, travelling to Garda for the internationally-renowned footwear exposition.

### Welcoming atmosphere

The couple’s shop is warmly welcoming and actually quite cute with itsy-bitsy baby socks (Nike), bright perfect-for-puddle-splashing rain boots, and wear-everywhere comfy trainers.

The couple understands children. Their seven-year-old twins “love shoes!”

The couple has an assortment of sparkly hairbands that they give to the smiling wee ones as they leave on happy feet.

“It’s so much fun to see their smiling energy. It gives us pleasure that they leave *molto felice*,” adds Viken in Italian.

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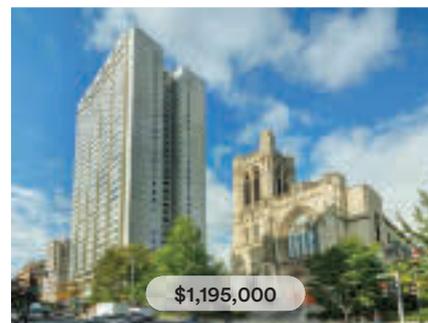
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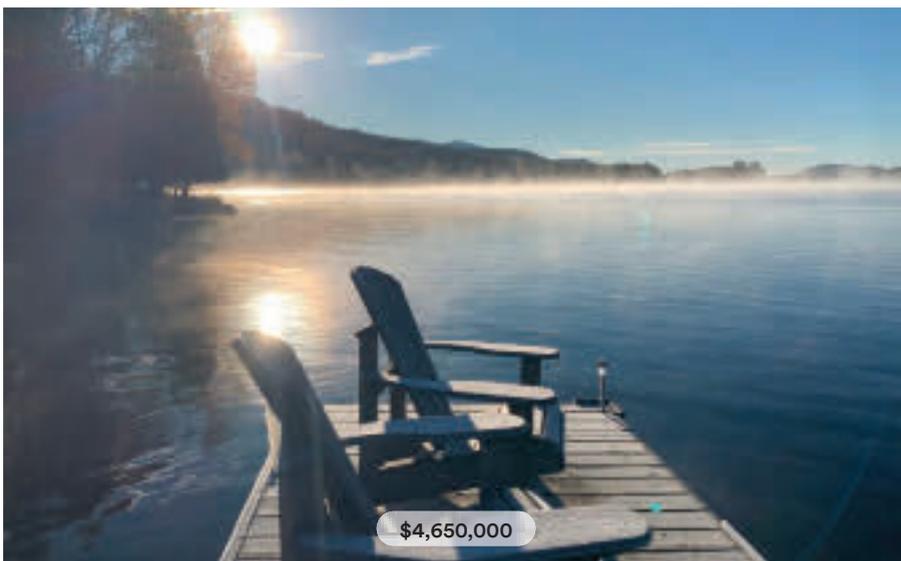
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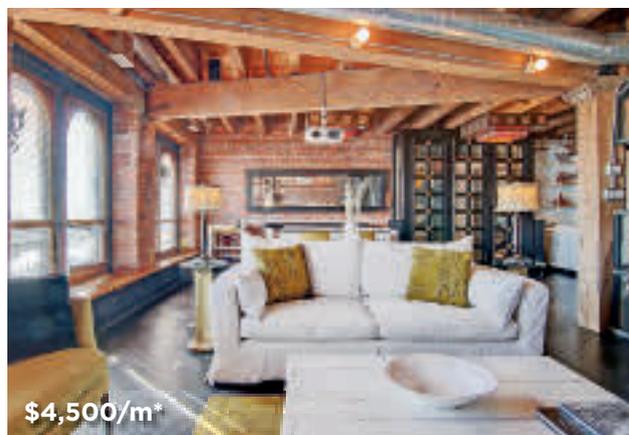


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